

NATIONAL RECORDER.

"Nec araneorum sane textus ideo melior, quia ex se fila gignunt, nec noster villior quia ex alienis libamus ut apes."

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Miscellany.

ON WORKS OF IMAGINATION.

One of the most obvious distinctions of the works of romance is, an utter violation of all the relations between ends and means. Sometimes such ends are proposed as seem quite dis severed from means, inasmuch as there are scarcely any supposable means on earth to accomplish them: but no matter; if we cannot ride we must swim, if we cannot swim we must fly: the object is effected by a mere poetical omnipotence that wills it. And very often practicable objects are attained by means the most fantastic, improbable, or inadequate; so that there is scarcely any resemblance between the method in which they are accomplished by the dexterity of fiction, and that in which the same things must be attempted in the actual economy of the world. Now, when you see this absurdity of imagination prevailing in the calculations of real life, you may justly apply the epithet romantic.

Indeed a strong and habitually indulged imagination may be so absorbed in the end, if it is not a concern of absolute immediate urgency, as for a while quite to forget the process of attainment. It has incantations to dissolve the rigid laws of time and distance, and place a man in something so like the presence of his object, that he seems half to possess it; and it is hard, while occupying the verge of paradise, to be flung far back in order to find or make a path to it, with the slow and toilsome steps of reality. In the luxury of promising himself that what he wishes will by some means take place at some time, he forgets that he is advancing no nearer to it; except on the wise and patient calculation that he must, by the simple movement of growing older, be coming somewhat nearer to every event that is yet to happen to him. He is like a traveller, who, amidst his indolent musings in some soft bower, where he sat down to be shaded a little while from the rays of the noon, falls asleep, and dreams he is in the midst of all the endearments of home, insensible that there are many hills and dales for him yet to traverse. But the traveller will awake; so too will the man of fancy, and if he have the smallest capacity of just reflection, he

will regret to have wasted in reveries the time which ought to have been devoted to practical exertions.

But even though reminded of the necessity of intervening means, the man of imagination will often be tempted to violate the relation with ends, by permitting himself to dwell on those happy *casualties* which the prolific sorcery of his mind will promptly figure to him as the very things, if they would but occur, to accomplish his wishes at once, without the toil of a sober process. If they would occur—and things as strange *might* happen: he reads in the newspapers that an estate of twenty thousand pounds per annum was lately adjudged to a man who was working on the road. He has even heard of people dreaming that in such a place something valuable was concealed; and that, on searching or digging that place, they found an old earthen pot, full of gold and silver pieces of the times of good king Charles the martyr. Mr. B. was travelling by the mail-coach, in which he met with a most interesting young lady, whom he had never seen before; they were mutually delighted, and were married in a few weeks. Mr. C. a man of great merit in obscurity, was walking across a field, when lord D., in chase of a fox, leaped over the hedge, and fell off his horse into a ditch. Mr. C. with the utmost alacrity and kind solicitude helped his lordship out of the ditch, and recovered for him his escaped horse. The consequence was inevitable; his lordship, superior to the pride of being mortified to have been seen in a condition so unlucky for giving the impression of nobility, commenced a friendship with Mr. C. and introduced him into honourable society and the road to fortune. A very ancient maiden lady of large fortune happening to be embarrassed in a crowd, a young clergyman offered her his arm, and politely attended her home; his attention so captivated her, that she bequeathed to him, soon after, the whole estate, though she had many poor relations.

That class of fictitious works called *novels*, though much more like real life than the romances which preceded them, (and which are now, with some alterations, partly come into vogue again,) is yet full of these lucky incidents and adventures, which are introduced as the chief means toward the ultimate success. A young man without fortune, for

instance, is precluded from making his addresses to a young female in a superior situation, whom he believes not indifferent to him, until he can approach her with such worldly advantages as it might not be imprudent or degrading for her to accept. Now how is this to be accomplished? Why, I suppose, by the exertion of his talents in some fair and practicable department; and perhaps the lady besides will generously abdicate for his sake some of the trappings and luxuries of rank. You really suppose this is the plan? I am sorry you have so much less genius than a novel writer. This young man has an uncle, who has been absent a long time, nobody knew where, except the young man's lucky stars. During his absence, the old uncle has gained a large fortune, with which he returns to his native land, at a time most opportune for every one, but a highwayman, who attacks him in a road through a wood, but is frightened away by the young hero, who happens to come there at the instant, to rescue and recognize his uncle, and to be in return recognized and made the heir to as many thousands as the lady or her family could wish. Must not the reader think it very *likely* that he too has some old uncle, or acquaintance at least, returning with a ship-load of wealth from the East Indies; and very *desirable* that the highwayman should make one such attempt more; and very *certain* that in that case he shall be there in the nick of time to catch all that fortune sends? One's indignation is excited at the immoral tendency of such lessons to young readers, who are thus taught to regard all sober, regular plans for compassing an object with disgust or despondency, and to muse on improbabilities till they become foolish enough to expect them, and to be melancholy when they find they may expect them in vain. It is unpardonable that these pretended instructors by example should thus explode the calculations and exertions of manly resolution, destroy the connexion between ends and means, and make the rewards of virtue so depend on chance, that if the reader does not either regard the whole fable with contempt, or promise himself he shall receive the favours of fortune in some similar way, he must close the book with the conviction that he may hang or drown himself as soon as he pleases; that is to say, unless he has learnt from some other source a better morality and religion than these books will ever teach him.

[Foster's Essays.]

MOUTH OF COLUMBIA.

Most of your readers, it is presumed, are already apprised of the fact that government has sent the Macedonian frigate and a sloop of war to take possession of the mouth of the Columbia river, and to cruise on the shores of the Pacific ocean. This measure, it is conceived, evinces great extension of views in the administration, and probably in the lapse

of a few years will be considered of more importance than is at present attached to it.

The views of the British government, or more properly speaking of the fur companies of that nation, have been long turned to this point. They have sent several travellers to explore the Columbia river, and examine into the practicability of carrying on a trade with the East Indies by this channel, and in case of its being feasible, their intention was to exchange the valuable furs of the North American forests for the elegant luxuries of the east. They were only prevented from acting upon this suggestion from the want of proper means.

With a view to this object, a company of gentlemen of the city of New York, at the head of which was Mr. Jacob Astor, despatched two ships to establish a settlement at the mouth of this river; they arrived at their place of destination, and settled themselves at a place which they called Astoria. In consequence of the rupture between the United States and Great Britain, this establishment was broken up by an armed force of the latter power.

The distance, by this route, to a country, the commodities of which enriches every nation engaged in its trade, will be considerably shortened, and an examination into its practicability will perhaps not be uninteresting. The best route to the Pacific ocean will be, to cross the mountains south of the returning track of Lewis and Clark, and descend Clark's river to the Columbia, thence down the latter to the Pacific ocean. To show the advantages of this route, we will extract an article from Mr. Brackenridge's Views of Louisiana: "The route taken by Lewis and Clark (says he) across the Rocky mountains, was perhaps the very worst that could have been selected. Mr. Henry, a member of the Missouri company, and his hunters, have discovered several passes, not only very practicable, but even in their present state less difficult than those of the Allegheny mountains. These are considerably south of the sources of Jefferson river. It is the opinion of the gentleman last mentioned (Mr. Henry) that loaded horses, or even wagons, might in its present state go in the course of six or eight days from a navigable point on the Columbia to one on the waters of the Missouri. Thus rendering an intercourse with settlements that may be formed on the Columbia, more easy than between those on the heads of the Ohio, and the Atlantic states. Mr. Henry wintered in a delightful country, on a beautiful navigable stream."

"Whether," continues the author above quoted, "the returns could be introduced into the United States across the Rocky mountains to any advantage, might be worthy of experiment. A shortening of the distance by more than a thousand leagues, will certainly make it an object to lessen the expense and difficulty of transporting goods across the mountains and down the Missouri. It is worthy of consideration, that articles usually imported from the East Indies are not of great

bulk or weight, and that a small compass will include goods of great value. Hence this transportation will be attended with much less difficulty."

If this route is taken, no adequate idea can easily be formed of the future importance of a town at the mouth of this river. Mr. Brackenridge observes that the soil in the vicinity of the Columbia "is represented as rich and highly susceptible of cultivation; the climate is more temperate than in the same latitude in the United States." "The natives on the Columbia river are very numerous. General Clark informed me that their number might be safely estimated at eighty thousand souls."

This seems to indicate a capacity of supporting a dense population, practicably exemplified by the number of inhabitants who live upon its spontaneous productions. Probably there are as many Indian inhabitants on this river and its branches as in any other parts of North America, of the same extent.

Among other objections against the expediency of taking this route, it has been urged that the distance of the Columbia river from any white settlement, and the consequent difficulty of making it the channel of active commerce, will present insuperable obstacles to the successful prosecution of this plan. To this objection we answer, that until the country becomes inhabited, posts might be established at proper distances, as is frequently done in countries thus situated, which will subserve every necessary purpose. In process of time, these posts will become the residence of families, and assume the appearance of towns. The fertility of the soil will invite farmers to settle around them, and by this means the country contiguous to the route will acquire a population sufficiently dense to answer the demands incident to such a trade.

If it be asked, where can be obtained the requisite means of carrying on this intercourse, we answer, that independent of the supply derived from the fur of this country, the mines of Mexico can be very easily diverted to this channel, and that in such quantities as to obviate the inconvenience arising from a scarcity of specie, in consequence of the drainage produced by this trade. But it may be said, that the Spanish system of restriction, which forces the produce of those mines to their own ports, may defeat, or defer, the attainment of this advantage. If the obstinacy of Spain will still protract the reciprocal adjustment of all differences existing between her government and ours, it would then, it is conceived, be advisable to obtain, by a resort to arms, that redress diplomacy could not effect. An efficient aid would then be given to the Mexicans, and their independence would be established. The local situation of Mexico renders it impossible for them ever to become a maritime nation, and the American possessions contiguous to it, will come in for their share of the carrying trade. By this means the gold and silver will flow into New Orleans, and thence into this territory, and the western

country generally. St. Louis will be the medium of exchange between the mouths of the Columbia and the Mississippi; it will not only advance her prosperity, but that of the United States.

The Pacific ocean, so called from the placidity of its waters, will enable the merchant to trade backwards and forwards with the greatest celerity and despatch, and the shortness of the distance will enhance its advantages.

This plan may appear visionary, but that which is now speculation, will, it is confidently believed, shortly become fact, and this country will be enriched by the overflowings of its benefit.

[*St. Louis Enquirer.*]

"I will Sell."

Notices, commencing in the above manner, are frequently seen, especially in the western prints. Even in advertising a barrel of pork, or a package of muskrat skins, it is worth a man's while to appear in a pleasing manner, and a disposition to egotism is always disagreeable. To use the first person in speaking of ourselves in such a public manner, is rather disrespectful to the audience we are addressing: it appears as if we thought ourselves of sufficient importance to demand a share of that attention which will be exclusively bestowed by the public, upon the said pork and furs.

BOWDOIN COLLEGE.

At the commencement at Bowdoin college, Maine, on the first inst. eleven young gentlemen received the degree of bachelor of arts, and five that of master. The following are the subjects discussed by the speakers: Enterprise—The character of Patrick Henry—Does happiness depend more on the disposition of the mind, than on external circumstances—The character of Socrates—The natural diversities of the human species—The incongruity of slavery with the principles and institutions of free government—The evidence of design in the works of creation—The influence of association of ideas upon the judgment in matters of taste—The connexion between liberty and intellectual improvement—The comparative importance of conquests and useful institutions in promoting the glory of a nation.

[*Alb. Gazette.*]

Discovery.—Lt. Varnhagen, a German, has discovered that sawdust, particularly of soft wood, mixed with gunpowder in equal parts, has thrice the strength of powder alone, when used in blowing rocks.

Expedition for the Sea Serpent.—Messrs. Editors, I was surprised to find that you had no information respecting the expedition fitted out here, for the capture of the Sea Serpent: had I before known this, you should not have waited until this time for information. The expedition was formed by Winslow Lewis and Benjamin Smith, Esqrs. and consisted of a pilot boat, and two whale boats, with all the necessary gear and apparatus, manned by a select crew of experienced whalers from Nantucket, and under the command of capt. Alley, of the brig John. The terms on which they started, were as follows, or nearly so:—If they succeeded in capturing their object, captain Alley was to receive ten thousand dollars, and the men under his command, five hundred each; and a certain sum if they saw him or struck a harpoon into him. If they did not see him, capt. Alley was to be paid at the rate of four dollars and a half each day, and his men two dollars. The expedition departed hence on Monday, the 30th ult. in high spirits. To these enterprising gentlemen, the thanks of the public are due; for if the expedition should not succeed, they will be at considerable expense, and it will be no more than right, if a liberal minded public were to remunerate them, for their exertions, which I hope will be the case. NAHANT.
Bost. Gaz.]

Ship Blocks.—The exemplification of a machine for cutting and forming ships' blocks by a very rapid and certain process, has been exhibited in Suffolk building for several days. The inventor is Mr. Thomas Blanchard, of Worcester county, and the machine is now in the possession of Messrs. Scott and Clark, blockmakers of this town. We saw a miniature block formed, grooved, and morticed, from a rough block of wood, in two minutes and an half; and the proportions were pronounced exact by several intelligent persons acquainted with

the article. The machine is not very complicated: it operates like a lathe; and the article desired will be formed by it exactly like any model which may be placed in the machine. It was originally invented to cut gun stocks with facility; and has been appropriated to the manufacture of ships' blocks at the suggestion of Com. Rodgers, of the navy board. We understand, that a proposition for the practical use of this machine, on an extensive scale, will be made in a few days. [*Bost. Cent.*]

SEPARATION OF MAINE.

The returns of votes on the great question of the separation of the District of Maine, have been returned, officially counted, and found to be as follows:

Counties.	Totals.	For.	Against.
Cumberland	4709	3315	1394
Hancock	1581	820	761
Kennebeck	4591	3950	641
Lincoln	4057	2523	1534
York	3732	2086	1646
Oxford	2443	1893	550
Penobscot	815	584	231
Washington	618	480	138
Somerset	1677	1440	237
	24,223	17,091	7132

[*Bost. Cent.*]

Munificence.—The following appropriations made by the legislature of the wealthy state of New York, last year, do equal honour to her patriotism and liberality.

To Columbia College,	\$10,000
To the New York Free School,	5,000
For a new Academy,	6,000
For the Deaf and Dumb Institution,	10,000
For distributing forms, &c. for Schools,	1,000
For two Churches on quarantine ground,	2,000
For Buffalo harbour,	12,000
For the Grand Canal,	607,500
To improve Agriculture,	10,000
To purchase Seeds, &c.	1,000

Total \$664,500

[*Bost. Centinel.*]

Scruple of Conscience.—An old German knight, in the first half of the seventeenth century, when enormous gob-

lets were among the chief ornaments of the rooms and tables of the nobles, sat once at a table next to his young wife, in a numerous company, where the bottle went continually round, and a large goblet was to be emptied each time, on pain of being contemned as a false brother by the guests, who used to be very strict in this point. The wife, who had received a more polished education, whispered to her husband, when it again came to his turn to empty an enormous glass, to pour the wine secretly under the table. "The others will see it," said he. His wife, therefore, just as he was raising the glass to his mouth, snuffed out the candle, and repeated her request. Instead of complying, he said with a kind of solemnity, "God sees it," and emptied it.

Foreign.

Last Session of the British Parliament.

The following concise sketch of the proceedings of the last session of parliament, from a Liverpool paper, will, we hope, be interesting to our readers. We are apt to forget the acts which are publishing at the time of passing, and to retain an indistinct recollection of the fate of such as are proposed.

The session of parliament having just closed, it may be interesting to take a brief review of its proceedings on the great questions which have engaged its attention. It was truly observed by the speaker of the house of commons, "that the subjects which had occupied their attention had been more numerous, more various, and more important, than are usually submitted to parliament in the same session." The first new parliament after the close of the longest and severest contest we ever carried on, had many things to reform, which, during war, were neglected, and more to regulate, which that war occasioned. Almost all our national institutions, and many questions of domestic and external policy, have come under consideration. The finances, the currency, the taxes, the poor laws, the penal code, the charities, and the constitution of parliament, have occasioned separate and interesting discussions. Many acts have been passed and rescinded; many arrangements have been effected; much good and much harm have been done. We shall commence with

The finances.—On this head the fullest disclosures have been made; and the escape of many weighty truths, from the obscurity in which they have been involved, has effected

a very material change in the tone and conduct of ministers and of parliament. Previously doubts and fears on this subject had been scouted as ridiculous; inquiry had been strenuously resisted; expedients had been adopted instead of plans and systems. Now, every difficulty is acknowledged; inquiry is promoted; and sad apprehensions prevail. The result has been, that the sinking fund, as it before stood, is exploded, and a new one formed by a surplus annual revenue of two millions, and by the imposition of new taxes, to the estimated amount of three millions. A loan of twelve millions has been raised, six of which is paid to the bank, in part payment of the sum of twenty millions, owing by the government to them. The debt of the country is now upwards of 800,000,000*l.* and the sinking fund of five millions, it is expected, will soon be raised to eight millions, which would remove the debt, by the operation of compound interest, if no war should arise, in about forty-five years. The annual expenditure of the country is fifty-two millions, and its annual income fifty-four millions.

The state of the currency has occupied the deliberations of the two committees, one of the lords and the other of the commons. These committees have proved the bad effects arising from an excessive and depreciated paper currency; they have shown that gold must, by the present system, be banished from circulation: and have strongly advised, that a definite period should be fixed for the repeal of the restriction, on the bank of England, and for the resumption of the cash payments. Acting upon their advice, parliament has arranged a plan, by which gold in bars of fixed weight, shall be paid by the bank in exchange for their notes. From October, 1819, till May, 1821, the price of these bars will be higher than the mint price: but at the latter period they will be given, in bars of 60 ounces each, at 3*l.* 17*s.* 10 1-2*d.* per ounce; and in May, 1823, if convenient to the bank, or not till 1825, if they think proper, cash payments will be absolutely resumed.

New taxes to the amount of three millions, have been imposed upon the country, for the creation of a real sinking fund. These have all been laid upon articles of general consumption and necessity; and press most heavily upon the lower orders of the people. Manufactures are hampered by a tax on foreign wool; malt, tea, tobacco, spirits, &c. have to sustain additional imposts. With a country involved in the depth of misery, from the revulsion of trade, from the stagnation of manufactures, from the increase of poor laws and paupers, with a taxation of more than fifty millions, and with a prospect of great depreciation in all prices, three millions of additional taxes are imposed, in the fifth year of profound peace.

The poor laws have received little serious consideration; and a very few slight changes have been effected in them. Several bills for more important alterations have been rejected. The education charities have had much

better success. A new bill has been introduced to extend the power of commissioners appointed for inquiry, almost as far as the original projector wished to carry them. Ten commissioners are now chosen, forming five boards; instead of having as before, six commissioners, forming two boards. It is a subject of regret that the visited charities are still exempt from investigation, but their number fortunately is not, in the whole, more than five in a hundred.

The penal code, and the state of prisons, have been submitted to the consideration of the two separate committees: the former on the motion of Sir James Mackintosh, and the latter of lord Castlereagh. A report has been presented from the committee on the penal code, which recommends the erasure of several obscure and obsolete laws from the statute book, and the general amelioration of the criminal laws, which are at present alike opposed to humanity, to justice, and to policy. The crime of murder, it appears, has diminished materially in frequency since the revolution of 1688; the convictions for that offence being now, taking into account the increase of population, only one-fourth as many as they were a century and a half ago. This committee has been most assiduous in its labours. The committee on the state of prisons have not yet furnished a report.

After two severely contested debates on the subject, it was determined to appoint a committee to inquire into the state of the Scotch burghs. The corruption and inequalities manifest in these burghs were too gross to be overlooked; and the advocates of existing abuses received an overthrow in their attempts to prevent examination. A report has been presented, and is now printing.

A motion of the same nature, but of much greater importance, for an inquiry into the constitution of the commons house of parliament, was negatived by a large majority. Though the motion was couched in the most guarded terms, and only demanded inquiry, the weight of aristocratic influence easily overwhelmed it. The abuse has advanced too far to be eradicated without difficulty; and the incautious violence of those who would cure the disease, but destroy the constitution, serves to strengthen the hands and the resolution of its opponents. Fifty-eight members voted with the mover, Sir F. Burdett, and one hundred and fifty-three in opposition to him.

On a very narrow scale, perhaps something may be done to reform the shocking corruption prevalent in many of the rotten boroughs. On the motion of lord John Russell, the house of commons has passed a resolution, that they will take into their consideration the notorious system of corruption which has prevailed in the borough of Grampound, early in the next session. This would be a most useful measure, both in its principle and its effects; but we have little hope that it will pass the close knit sleeve of the house of lords. The cases of Penryn, Barnstable and Camel-

ford, have also been noticed; and if success attend the advocates for disfranchising Grampound, probably these boroughs may share the same fate.

The Catholic claims have been again rejected; in the house of lords by a majority of 45, and in the commons by a majority of two.

The inefficacy of the present insolvent laws inclined parliament to suffer them to expire at the time appointed by statute; but, as the new law was lost in the house of lords, the old one was renewed for one year. The bill for amending the bankrupt laws met with the same fate in that house, owing to the lateness of its introduction. More decisive measures may be expected to be taken on both these subjects in the course of the next session.

A law has been enacted for regulating the hours of labour, for children working in the cotton factories. It is very reasonably expected, that beneficial results will accrue to the children from this measure; which will tend to preserve the health of great numbers, and prevent the decrepitude and feebleness now so frequently seen amongst them.

Foreign affairs have received little attention, in the midst of so many important domestic regulations. There is, indeed, little of interest in the posture of the great powers of the world. The foreign enlistment bill will prevent British subjects from assisting the independents of South America, in their noble attempt to throw off the yoke of Spain. The Floridas have been ceded by Spain to the United States, without any interference of ours; and parliament has decided, that it would be improper to take any measures to prevent the cession, notwithstanding its effects on our West India islands will be pernicious. No steps have been taken in the affair of the murder of two British subjects by the American general Jackson. The treaty which gives the right of fishery on our Newfoundland banks to the Americans, has been loudly, but vainly opposed. A measure, which gives them not only an equality with, but an advantage over, our own merchants, was justly stigmatised.

Such is a slight sketch of the proceedings of the present parliament in its first session. It would be a most difficult task to give those proceedings any denomination, which would be applicable to the whole. In any abstract question, honour and good sense uniformly prevail; but where interest, above all, personal interest, or borough influence, is affected, there are few among the representatives, who conscientiously consult the good of the country, but cling tenaciously to privileges, though they may be abuses, and to party though it may be wrong. We are aware that these observations apply to all parliaments; and we only mention them to show that no general appellation can be given to their proceedings which will be suitable to every case. When we consider the

readiness and zeal with which they have resolved to remedy the abuses prevalent in the penal code, in our prison discipline, and in the education charities, we cannot but express our admiration and gratitude; and the application of the above principle can alone prevent us from being utterly astonished, when we see them refusing inquiry, and spurning reformation, in cases where abuse is far more notorious and dangerous, but where they have some benefit accruing or expected, from a continuance of the infringement of public rights.

ENGLISH MINISTRY.

Some alterations having taken place in the several offices, composing what is called the *ministry* of the united kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, as well as certain changes among the persons of the ministers themselves, occasioned by 'death, resignation, or otherwise,' it may perhaps be a satisfaction to our readers of European intelligence to receive a few explanations relating to this subject.

Formerly the cabinet ministers consisted of *thirteen* members; and the ministers not of the cabinet composed also the same number. The cabinet now contains *fourteen* persons; and the other ministers are only twelve, whilst the offices which they fill, are variously modified and changed.

Until lately, neither the Treasurer of the Navy, nor the President of the Board of Trade, were of the cabinet—the offices are now both united in one person, who is a cabinet minister. Of the offices lately filled by ministers, not of the cabinet, four are taken away; two Secretaries of the Treasury, the Master of the Rolls, and one of the Paymasters of the Forces. To the same body are added the five offices of Lord Steward, Lord Chamberlain, Master of the Horse, Lieutenant-general of the Ordnance, and First Commissioner of Land Revenue.

The following is the list as it stood at the opening of the present parliament.

Cabinet Ministers.

Earl of Liverpool, First Lord of the Treasury.

Lord Eldon, Lord Chancellor.

Earl of Westmoreland, Lord Privy Seal.

Earl of Harrowby, President of the Council.

Viscount Sidmouth, Secretary of State for the Home Department.

Viscount Castlereagh, Sec. Foreign Affairs.

Earl Bathurst, Sec. Colonies and War.

Right Hon. Nicholas Vansittart, Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Viscount Melville, First Lord of the Admiralty.

Earl of Mulgrave, Master General of the Ordnance.

Right Hon. George Canning, President of the Board of Control.

Right Hon. Charles Bathurst, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Right Hon. Wellesley Pole, Master of the Mint.

Right Hon. Fred. John Robinson, Treasurer of the Navy and President of the Board of Trade.*

Ministers not of the Cabinet.

Marquis of Cholmondeley, Lord Steward.

Marquis of Hertford, Lord Chamberlain.

Duke of Montrose, Master of the Horse.

Viscount Palmerston, Secretary at War.

Right Hon. Charles Long, Paymaster of the Forces.†

Right Hon. Thomas Wallace,‡ Vice President of the Board of Trade.

Sir Samuel Shepherd, knt.§ Attorney General.

Sir Robert Gifford, knt. Solicitor General.

Earl of Chichester and Marquis of Salisbury,¶ Paymasters General.

Sir Hildebrand Oakes, bart. Lieut. General of the Ordnance.

Right Hon. William Huskisson, First Commissioner of Land Revenue. [Bost. Int.]

GLANCE AT EUROPE.

Our attention has been for some time past occupied by the singular state of things which appears to have grown up among some of the nations of Europe since the general peace. Though all is quiet and smooth without, there are occasional indications of a deep seated spirit of discontent, particularly in the north of Germany and in England; which would seem well calculated to arrest the attention even of the transatlantic politician. As to France, though still somewhat distracted by parties, by her ultras, and her liberals, her constitutionalists and her democrats, she is, at this moment, after all her humiliations, her costly triumphs and most signal defeat, the richest, the happiest, the least oppressed, and if need were, the most efficient nation of Europe. At the cost indeed of torrents of blood, and of unspeakable misery and crime, she has attained to a degree of freedom unknown to her before. Her people are infinitely improved in knowledge, the property of the nation is more equally distributed, the oppression of feudal rights is completely abolished; and if the present king survive, as for the interest of the world as well as of France it is most desirable he should, for some years longer, the constitutional liberty of Frenchmen, and the

* These offices were formerly held by the late Right Hon. George Rose, and the Earl of Clancarty, respectively.

† The other paymaster of the forces, was Lord Charles Somerset.

‡ The successor to the Right Hon. F. J. Robinson, promoted to the cabinet.

§ Late Solicitor General.

¶ Instead of the Earl of Sandwich.

compact and mighty power of France will be established upon the most solid foundations. In Germany, and particularly in Prussia, the scene is far different. The great diffusion of taste for knowledge, which distinguish the people of the north of Germany, their habits of deep reflection, and love of metaphysical abstraction; while they tend to keep them distinct from the ordinary political struggles of monarchs and statesmen, (in which for the most part, the interests of the people are not at all considered, or unhesitatingly sacrificed,) eminently qualify them to act a distinguished part in any struggle, where their feelings and prejudices shall once be fairly enlisted. Such a struggle was that, in which, after having seen their country overrun by the licentious hordes of a foreign invader, and its inhabitants made to drink the bitterest dregs of the cup of humiliation, they were invited by their sovereign to take part in 1812 and 13, with an assurance from their prince that the overthrow of the enemy should be the signal of their own more complete emancipation, and that on their return from the field of victory, they should return to the rights of freemen at home; they rushed to the contest with the most enthusiastic ardour; liberty, so long the idol of their secret worship, a worship nourished and confirmed by the deep streams of classic lore, liberty was held forth, as the reward of battle; and the despoilers of their country, the insolent strangers who had degraded and scoffed at their nation, and insulted their high spirited and lovely queen, were the foes, whom they were called upon to encounter. In such a contest, so solicited, they could not, as they did not, fail—but they are yet the subjects of a despotic military government—cheated in their hopes, betrayed in their dearest interests, looked upon with suspicion, if not with hatred; can it be wondered at, by those who understand the highly excitable and enthusiastic character of the Germans, that a most portentous ferment should exist among them, or that existing, it should occasionally vent itself in such feelings as led to the assassination of Kotzebue, by the fanatic Sandt. We shall indeed be surprised, if much more serious scenes are not yet to follow.

In England the causes of dissatisfaction have none of this depth of moral feeling. They are there, the mere ebullitions of ignorance, poverty, and vice: and consequently threaten much less serious consequences. The immense debt and consequent expenditure of Great Britain, require the continuation of enormous taxes, when the monopoly of commerce and manufactures which mainly supported them, can no longer be maintained. The competition of foreigners, in diminishing the extent of English commerce, and the circulation of English manufactures, must necessarily deprive those, whom the excess of these branches of industry formerly employed, of occupation and support: and these outcasts, together with the numberless seamen and soldiers, whom the return of peace,

has thrown without means of support or habits of industry, upon an already surcharged community, constitutes, together with a few profligate and designing leaders, the chief actors in the scenes of riot and confusion which have recently disturbed, and still seem to menace, the peace of England. That these threatening appearances, however, are little regarded either by the government, or the people at large, is to be inferred from the unconcern, with which the former beheld the late numerous assemblage in Smithfield (in the centre of London,) and the unopposed arrest by a few peace officers, from the midst of this multitudinous people, of one of their ringleaders, and as to the latter, it is clearly evinced by the progressive improvement in the stocks, and by recent large investment of money in the various public funds, than which there can be no surer criterion, of the confidence of the people at large in the stability of the government, and of the very slight impression, which the popular tumults occasion among those, who are ever the most sensitive to approaching changes, the monied interest. [*N. Y. Am.*

STATE OF GERMANY.

Our last advices from Germany left that enlightened country in a condition, far removed from tranquillity. The delay of the royal governments, in giving a *representative constitution* to the people of the several states, as promised in various ordinances, has been continued with few exceptions* to the present moment. This measure which all the intelligent Germans expect, is demanded to satisfy the claims of justice, to redeem the pledges made by their sovereigns, when in want of the people's services, and to fulfil the solemn engagement of the act of confederation.

The public tranquillity, for a long time, was undisturbed in relation to this subject—and the arguments upon the propriety of the various forms of constitutions, were carried on by the theoretical politicians of that country without much apparent expectation of disappointment, or fear of the fidelity of the governing powers. But checks upon the liberty of the press in Austria, Prussia and other kingdoms—the severe distresses felt by numerous individuals, arising from the revulsion of trade and the manufacturing rivalry of Great Britain—together with the enormous taxation imposed upon the inhabitants—the disputes of provisional assemblies in some states with their governors, relating to taxes; the embarrassments of the finances of Austria—the violation by the Prussian government of the territory of Hesse in the affair of colonel Massenback—and the tardiness of the diet at Frankfort, to propose any form of constitution for the numerous states in the national league, besides their refusal to guarantee the constitution proposed by Saxe Weimar for the government of that duchy, com-

* Wirtemberg and Baden.

bined to disturb the public mind, and excite a violent spirit of discontent.

The diet of Frankfort, who are soon again to assemble, who have hitherto done little else than attend to territorial and statistical arrangements—is composed commonly of seventeen plenipotentiaries, having the same number of votes, which are thus divided. Eleven important powers have each a vote. These are, Austria, Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, Hanover, Wirtemberg, Baden, Electoral Hesse, the Grand Duchy of Hesse, Denmark for her German Province of Holstein, and the Netherlands for that of Luxembourg. Then about twenty principalities, who with the free cities divide among them the remaining six votes. The great powers of Europe have each a minister at Frankfort accredited at the diet. On matters of unusual interest affecting the basis of the confederation—this assembly may be enlarged to sixty-nine—the votes of the different states continue nearly in the same proportion, as when consisting of only seventeen. This difference however obtains: the six kingly powers have four votes each, and the other powers before entitled to one, have only three votes. In ordinary cases all questions are carried by a majority; but on momentous subjects a question requires a plurality of three-fourths, to determine it.

During the last year addresses to the diet, praying for the establishment of the states in all the governments, in compliance with the act of confederation, were circulated from house to house in various parts of Germany, and especially in Prussia. No one knew whence they came, but they were loaded with signatures—requests being made to sign and circulate them. The inhabitants of Coblenz addressed the king of Prussia on this subject—who, in his reply, recognized the promises and engagements of 'the edict of May 1815, and the 13th article of the confederation relating to the organization of the states.' But he observes 'the period at which it shall take place is not fixed—and all times are not equally propitious to introduce changes into the organization of states.' He blames them for implying a doubt of the fidelity of the sovereigns, and for their impropriety in taking upon themselves to decide upon the period when the new order of things may be established, and concludes by saying, he shall fix the period for the fulfilment of his promise, when circumstances render it expedient, telling them, it is their duty to wait until the moment, when after an examination of the situation of the whole monarchy, he shall think proper to announce his determination.

The discontents which we have mentioned, were not appeased by such royal declarations, and the spirit spread from among the people to the universities—who emulate, under the instigation of excessive patriotism, the costume of Germany three centuries ago. They were sturdy patriots say they and stuck up for liberty against the emperor Charles—we want some of their spirit in our days and we will begin by copying their dress to remind

us constantly of their characters. In Göttingen and Heidelberg these combustible principles burst out into riotous excesses; and it required the interposition of government to subdue, the flame which they were unable to extinguish.

Forty new journals have commenced in different parts of Germany which continually add fuel to the fire; and further difficulties have arisen in Prussia; but it is to be hoped the meeting of the ministers of state of all the principal powers at Carlsbad will result in restoring tranquillity to the German nation.

The recent attack by four armed ruffians upon the king of Wirtemberg whilst he was at *Schwalbad*, threatening him with the vengeance of the people if he did not govern in future with good faith and justice; the assassination of Kotzebue, the author, merely on account of his supposed monarchical principles—and the popular commotion predicted in case *Sandts* his assassin shall be executed, which has evidently created fears in the government—are circumstances inauspicious to the continuance of tranquillity. They resemble the twitchings and irritability of the nerves, which frequently precede a violent paroxysm.

It will not become us in this country to predict what will be the result of this state of affairs—the distance to which we are removed renders us inadequate judges of the probabilities of events. But we imagine the people of the United States or the inhabitants of England, would not long submit to live under a government of men, after they had been solemnly promised a free constitution and laws; under men who, if they have not violated their promises and engagements, have certainly not complied with them—and who are enforcing a system of taxation both oppressive and unjust. The people of this country we think, without a civil war, would be able to obtain their rights; and it remains to be seen, whether the descendants of the same German original, have not in different countries, the same sturdy determination to resist injustice and oppression. [Bost. Int.

Denmark.—The Lancasterian system of education has been established at Copenhagen, by order of the king.

Gymnasty forms an important feature of Danish education. Several pupils have been taught to plunge to a depth of twenty feet in the water; to swim under the surface for 100 yards; and even to swim with their clothes on, armed, and with a man on their shoulders. About 2000 persons have been taught to swim in this way, at Copenhagen, during the last year.

A Danish captain has invented a new rocket, which ascends to a prodigious

height, and may be seen at sea at a distance of 100 miles.

MEXICO.

For a month past we have had frequent reports of an expedition being projected from the lower Mississippi, on the invitation of a leader of the patriot army, to go towards the Spanish provinces, with a view of aiding the republicans now engaged in those provinces in their struggle for liberty. To avoid offending against the United States laws, the parties leave the territory of the United States in small squads, and then form a camp and wait for those who choose to follow. After the corps becomes numerous enough to effect their primary object, they choose officers, &c.

From what has come to our knowledge from another source, we expect there is something in the wind in a different quarter. Public curiosity is getting on tiptoe. A friend writes the editor thus: "To establish a new republic in that delightful region, to give liberty to a great nation enslaved by a handful of Europeans, to turn the commerce of a great empire, and the gold and silver of three hundred mines into the bosom of the United States, are vast and magnificent objects. No friend to his country can contemplate such brilliant advantages without being smitten with their lustre. Wealth, fame, and the possession of the most delicious climate, is waiting to crown an expedition into that fine country, if the administration will by remaining neuter permit its maturity."

Since the subject of the Mexican provinces is brought into view, a bird's eye glance at that country will not probably be unacceptable to our readers. The Spanish provinces in America are less known than any other country of the same extent and value. The natural jealousy of the Spaniards has no doubt been much excited to keep other nations in the dark as to the real wealth and strength of their American possessions; but the oppressions of the people have compelled them to rise, in the course of the last ten years, in defence of the few remaining rights they possess, and consequently interest the feelings of those who wish success to the cause of humanity.

In a political estimate of the value of the large and flourishing possessions of Spain in North America, it will be proper in the first place to consider their boundaries. That towards the south-east, in lat. 7, is by a ridge called Serras du Ganatagua; on the west by the Pacific ocean; on the north and north-east, previous to the arrangement with the United States in 1819, the Spaniards did not assent to any boundary; but by that treaty, lat. 49 is made the northern boundary, and Louisiana and the gulf the eastern boundary, making a distance in length of 2000 miles, and in breadth from 25 to 1000 miles; or a medial breadth of 400 miles.

The division of old Mexico includes all the country south of the river Hiagua, and produces fine apples, pomegranates, oranges, lemons, citrons, figs, cocoa nuts, cocoa of which chocolate is made, great quantities of sugar, coffee, cochineal for dying silk and cotton, besides maize, and almost every thing to be found on the face of the earth; but the chief advantage of the country, and what first induced the Spaniards to settle upon it, are the mines of gold and silver. These abound in Old and New Mexico, and have produced an immense revenue to Spain—in fact it is well known they supply the whole world with the precious metals.

New Mexico includes all the country that belongs to Spain, and would no doubt produce every thing common to the United States, had the people any inducement for industry. From Santa Fee (the same latitude as Nashville) immense quantities of gold and silver are yearly transported to the mint at Mexico. In 1771, the Spaniards discovered in their march against some Indians from this port at Cineguella, in the province of Sonora, a plain fourteen leagues in extent, in which vast quantities of gold were found in large lumps, at the depth of only 16 inches, and before the end of the year above two thousand persons had settled there. On the west and east, the country is equally valuable as the interior. The pearl fishery of California is the best in the world. Were the inhabitants possessed of industry, other sources of wealth would no doubt be found, besides the liberal gifts of nature already known.

The face of the country is agreeably diversified with plains, intersected by several noble rivers, and adorned with gentle eminences covered with various kinds of trees. In California there falls in the morning a great quantity of dew, which remaining on the rose leaves, candies and becomes hard like manna, having all the sweetness of refined sugar, without its whiteness.

The city of Mexico is ranked one of the wonders of the world. The floating gardens, the elegance of the buildings, and the costly furniture in the houses, have arrested the attention of every writer who has said any thing about Mexico. The city is supposed to contain 100,000 inhabitants. It is situated in the middle of a lake; the buildings are of stone, with sumptuous palaces erected on columns of jasper.

The other towns of note are Campeachy, Vera Cruz, Acapulco, St. Antonio, Santa Fee, Nacogdoches, and St. Joseph's. Other towns of less size are built in different directions, but principally near the mines. It has been remarked that the Spanish towns contain a larger population than the towns of other nations in America, and present a show of wealth and indolence uncommon in any other part of the world.

The heat of the southern division is not so intense as that in other countries in similar latitudes; this is probably owing to the numerous mountains which diversify the face of

the country. Within a league of the city of Mexico, there is a mountain whose base presents a never failing verdure, whilst the summit is wrapt in eternal snow.

The population of the Mexicos consists of Spaniards, Creoles, Indians and Negroes, and crosses between each. It is estimated at about seven millions of souls, of whom the Indians are supposed to make four millions—the Negroes, one million—Spaniard and Creoles, one million—and the mixed breed, one million. The character of the Indians is silent submission—much unlike their forefathers; the negroes are slaves like ours; the Spaniards are an inactive, haughty people; and the rest partake more or less of these qualities.

The military force of the Spaniards in their North American possessions is but little known, and as long as they can they will endeavour to keep the world in that respect still ignorant; by such means they check the natives and prevent foreign invasion. The civil dissensions that at present divide that country will, it is hoped, give us some more information of that desirable quarter of the world.

The conquest of Mexico by the Spaniards is among the most extraordinary events recorded in history. Fernando Cortes, sailed from Cuba with 600 men, 18 horses, and a small number of field pieces; with this inconsiderable force he proposed to subdue the most powerful state on the continent of America; this was the empire of Mexico; rich, extensive, and inhabited by millions of Indians, passionately fond of war, and then headed by Montezuma, whose fame in arms struck terror into the neighbouring nations. Never did a true history appear more improbable and romantic than this war. The empire of Mexico had subsisted for ages; its inhabitants were not rude and barbarous; every thing announced a polished people. But all the grandeur and strength of the empire could not defend it against the Spaniards. They landed at Vera Cruz, and in their march they met with feeble opposition—Montezuma opened his gates to them on their approach, and he who could command 100,000 soldiers became the prisoner of a man with only 600. Cortes was rapacious and cruel, but a consummate general, and of course soon reduced the natives to the most abject bondage, without permitting them to acquire a knowledge of the use of the weapons by which he was enabled to effect so much.

The late general Pike, of the United States army, about the year 1806, being at the head of an exploring party towards the sources of Red river and Arkansas, and having by mistake rambled over to the Rio Grand del Norte, was there discovered by the governor of Santa Fee, and by his orders was conducted through the internal provinces of the Mexican empire. In the course of this journey the general made many valuable observations upon the face of the country, its resources, inhabitants, and the probable future fate of

the empire. On the subject of their disposition to throw off their subjection to the crown of Spain, he remarks—

“An instance of their disposition for independence has been displayed in their feeble attempts at a revolution in January, 1628, in June, 1692, and more recently in the year 1797, under the viceroyalty of the count de Galvez, when they proclaimed him king of Mexico in the streets of the capital. It was then only for him to have willed it, and the kingdom of Mexico was lost to Charles the Fourth for ever.

“But preferring his loyalty to his ambition, the viceroy rode out, attended by his guards, his sword in his hand, crying “Long live his Catholic Majesty Charles the Fourth,” and threatening to put to instant death any person who refused to retire to their houses.”

At the period of these insurrections the people, knowing nothing but submission to the altar and the throne, conceived that their liberties were secured if they could but create a king from among themselves. But in the course of the last ten years, the approximation of the United States, and an intercourse with their republican neighbours, has given birth to new ideas among them. The explosion of the democratic principle has taken place. The body of the people, led by the lower clergy, are in favour of a republic, while the nobles, the great clergy, and the satellites of Ferdinand, are for perpetuating the reign of despotism.

“In this struggle for liberty (says general Pike,) the republicans have turned their eyes on the United States, as brethren of the same soil, nearest neighbours, and possessing ample resources of men and arms to assist them in securing their independence; and who in that event, will secure to herself the trade of Mexico for centuries; and will become her carrier as long as the two nations shall exist. For Mexico, like China, will never become a nation of carriers; but receiving the ships of all the world into her ports, will give her bullion in exchange for the productions of different countries. How great would be the advantage the United States would reap from that event! Her numerous vessels would fill every port, and monopolize at least nine-tenths of the commerce of Mexico. Even on the coast of the Pacific ocean, no nation could vie with the merchants of the United States; and even through the interior, a brisk inland trade by way of the Red river, would be carried on with the internal provinces. It therefore remains for the United States to decide, whether they will depart from a strict neutrality, and restrain the people from assisting their enslaved brethren, and holding out to them a helping hand to emancipate a great empire from European tyranny, or whether by a different policy they would suffer six millions of Mexicans to become, in the hands of other nations, a scourge on our southwestern boundaries. Let Mexico fall into the power of the English, and that moment the United States will be compelled to keep

up a great military force on the southern confines of Louisiana, and will be forever open to a war on the weakest and most valuable point of our frontiers.

"Twenty thousand auxiliaries from the United States, joined to the independents of the country, are at any time sufficient to create and effect the revolution. These troops can be raised and officered in the United States, but paid and supported at the expense of Mexico. Should an American army ever march into Mexico, and be governed by proper maxims, they will only have to march from province to province in triumph, and be hailed by the united voices of grateful millions, as their deliverers and saviours; while our national character would be resounded to the most distant nations of the earth."

Thus spoke general Pike, a young officer who delivered himself up to a generous enthusiasm in the idea of giving liberty to a great nation. That the government received with satisfaction the sentiments he published on that head, is beyond a question; as soon after the publication of his journal, he was promoted to a high rank in the American army, where he sustained his reputation until his fall at the storming of York town, in Canada: but the apprehension of involving the nation in a foreign war, and an intention of maintaining publicly a strict neutrality, has produced the enactment of laws which appear to operate against the cause of liberty in both hemispheres. [Nashville Clarion.

Exports of Sugar and Coffee from Havana.

	1818. Boxes of Sugar.	1818. Arobas of Coffee.	1819. Boxes of Sugar.	1819. Arobas of Coffee.
January	1474	30811	6334	32061
February	2521	45481	12627	76491
March	15332	66528	10777	89113
April	50678	77805	10607	30051
May	31442	86107	9166	87096
June	30162	57875	14271	46854
July	21699	66133	20057	53019

153308 430740 83839 414685
Havana, August 27, 1819. W. W.

French Statues.—The king has ordered the execution of the following statues: Pascal, Montaigne, Bossuet, Corneille, Racine, Lafontaine, and Montesquieu. They are to be erected in the towns in which these illustrious men were born.

New Periodical Work.—A fourth philosophical journal has been com-

menced under the auspicious direction of Drs. Jamieson and Brewster. It would be invidious to institute any comparison between this work and its able predecessors in the same line; but, in our judgment, the first number of this new journal is the richest single specimen that we have ever seen; and, if the future numbers can be distinguished by an equal opulence of materials, no journal in Europe will vie with this from Edinburgh. In the single department of philosophy, it will serve to enrich our universal miscellany with many valuable fragments: and we can assure our readers, that, if there were twenty several works on as many branches of literature, we would do our best to incorporate in our pages the essence of all, while we trust we should continue to be behind none in appropriate originality.

[Eng. Mag.]

WILKIE'S CHEF D'ŒUVRE.

"The Penny Wedding."

This is a marriage festival, once common in Scotland, at which each of the guests paid a subscription to defray the expenses of the feast, and enable the new married couple to commence housekeeping. Music, mirth, and good cheer contribute to enliven this company, and render it a favourable subject for the display of character and expression. Every stool and chair in the apartment is filled by the young or old of both sexes of various degrees. On the right, the howdy, or midwife, sits in very consequential form, amidst a group, who are rather looking on than partaking of the sport or refreshments, though in their turn to share in both, according to their wishes. A young fellow beside them is pouring out ale in a wooden noggin; and close to him, a couple of ranting young blades, a buxom young woman, and a jolly dame, upwards of thirty, are laying violent legs on the floor, in all the fury of a Highland dance. The robust agility, frolic, glee, and grouping of these four are admirable. Their limbs twirl, their eyes sparkle, their lips speak: the mad enjoyment of the pastime possesses them from head to foot. In truth of nature, these may have been equalled by some of the best Flemish painters, but no Flemish ever equalled them in vivacity of expression. Nothing can come up to that young fellow in blue: his features are, as it were, on fire, and his very soul is ready to fly out of him with delight. In front of this happy group, a tub of whiskey punch, with a ladle, a pewter vessel, a bottle of cherry brandy, lemons and glasses, and the sugar bowl are laid, for the dancers to moisten with occasionally. A num-

her are coming in at the door behind them, and eagerly jostling forward to partake in the good things of the entertainment.

Refreshments are laid out on a table in the centre, which is crowded with a motley assembly of well-disposed guests. At one end, a respectable looking man is busy in cutting up a huge pie; and a Lowlander is seated next the spectator, with his head bowed and hand raised before his face in reverence, saying grace. A Highland bagpiper stands near him, looking back, and the true Caledonian character is depicted, with all its genuine shrewdness, upon his hard and weatherbeaten features. A man is busily employed in handing a chair to a person behind, over the heads of the regalers, and his bustling anxiety to avoid incommoding the company is ludicrously depicted. Around the table the bottle and glass are not forgotten; and nods, and winks, and sly looks, that speak a single and double meaning, announce the hilarity inspired by the wedding and the entertainment. Near the left side of the apartment, the bridegroom, a hale, fresh coloured young farmer, is leading out the bride to join in the dance, and the bridesmaid is beside her, stooping to draw up the heel of her shoe. A young man is drawing on his gloves and whispering some amorous secret in the ear of his partner, the bride's sister: a part of his face and one of his eyes are concealed from view by her head; but the arch sparkle and roguish meaning of the eye which is seen, are sufficiently intelligible. A giggling girl, who has overheard him, is seated on a stool, busily employed in pinning up the sister's gown. The mother, at a table, with bottles, glasses, and cakes, is looking back to her with a face of happiness, urging her to hasten to the dance; and behind the good dame, the fiddlers are seated on high, close to a window.

We do not pretend, in this brief outline, to enumerate a tenth of the beauties of this admirable performance. In variety of character, chastity of humour, and spirited expression, we have no hesitation in pronouncing this to be the very best of Mr. Wilkie's productions. The subject awakens all the mirth and happiness of domestic society, and draws within its centre all the boisterous animal spirits of the laughter-loving youth and jovial elders in the rural villages. The artist has given it a full share of festive pleasantry and sprightliness, and yet selected his incidents with so much correctness, as to preserve all the humour and archness, which pervade a wedding in ordinary life, without admitting any thing too broad, equivocal, or indelicate. If Addison, or Goldsmith, or Dr. Johnson, had been painters of these subjects, they could not have displayed a finer vein of thinking. It was so customary for a wedding in Scotland, among this class of people, to be productive of inebriety and its consequent license, that many artists would have been tempted to introduce such circumstances, from a mistaken notion of their being necessary to paint the manners and customs of the

time and occasion: but Mr. Wilkie has seized the moment when all the incidental frolic and unbridled levity are chastened by the religious act of grace. Thus the life and pleasantry are kept up, and the sense of decorum is preserved. The composition may be divided into several members or groups, which are duly connected, and each sustain the other. The figures at the door meet the eye in general as a crowd. Round the table the characters and incidents are more distinctly marked, and retain their full share of importance. The Lowlander pronouncing the blessing, the Highland piper, the man lifting the chair, and the girl tittering behind, are among the important actors. These two parts of the composition are subordinate to the groups in front. The company beside the midwife, possess the advantage of place and force of light and shadow; but they are chiefly spectators. The principal merriment of the action is with the dancers, and the chief interest is where it ought to be, with the bride, the bridegroom, the bridesmaid, the sister, and her sweetheart. The bride is a rustic beauty, in whose clear complexion the freshness of youth and health, and the look of gaiety and innocence, are blended with gentle touches of abashment and unaffected modesty, which throw a lively interest into her character. The look of the bridegroom is that which a fond mother would like to see in the husband of her daughter: his well set figure, and florid, good humoured countenance, speak highly in his favour. There is a simple purity in the expression of these two figures, which we never saw equalled in any picture of this class. The bridesmaid is pretty, and her stooping action and the contour of her face and outline of her whole figure, are in an excellent taste. The sister is known by her likeness, but it is a resemblance without a sameness in character, and the warm suffusion of her cheek and her look, throw a light upon the laughing mischief in the arch eye of her whispering partner.

Mr. Wilkie's devotion to his art affords a laudable example to other artists. Far from having permitted his well-earned fame to relax his efforts, he has from year to year increased in diligent study. [*Monthly Mag.*]

Death of Professor Playfair.—Professor Playfair, who has been for some time past in a declining state of health, died at his house in Forth street, Edinburgh, on Tuesday morning. His death is universally regretted. No man ever perhaps deserved or enjoyed a larger share of the public esteem. By the world at large he was respected for his great and various acquirements, both in literature and science, while to the circle of his private friends he was, in a pecu-

liar manner, endeared, by his mild and unassuming character.

Poetry.

In the return home of a regiment which has so highly distinguished itself, and had been so long absent, as the 92d Highlanders, there is something interesting even to Americans. How much more pleasing would it be were it probable that they would return to the honest industry of peace, and to the sober innocence of domestic life. But among the other evils of war, we should never forget its effect upon the survivors.

[From the Union.]

The following patriotic lines, which are copied from an Edinburgh paper, were published on the return of that valiant corps the 92d regiment, after the ever memorable battle of Waterloo, in which they manifested themselves so illustriously, as will descend with honour to their latest posterity:

THE SONG OF SCOTLAND.

On the return of the 92d Gordon Highlanders to their native country.

Why do these shouts the welkin rend?
What pipes are these so sweetly sounding?
What soldier laddies hither bend [ing?
Their footsteps o'er the dark heath bound-

High on the wind their green plaids swell,
Their black plumes in the breeze are danc-
Oh! tell me Donald, prithee tell [ing,
Who these warriors are advancing?

Lassie! these are Scotland's pride!
Well they're fam'd in gallant story;
From many a field with crimson dy'd
Home they're coming full of glory!

Scotland's pride, and Britain's boast,
The theme of every poet's sonnet,
Once HUNTLY lov'd these Gordons most,
But now the red plume's* in his bonnet.

Full in the hottest of the fight,
Foremost in the ranks of danger,
The Highland Thistle shines most bright,
To fear unknown, to flight a stranger!

In Holland, Egypt, Denmark, Spain,
This gallant ninety-second bore it,
On Zealand's shore, on Gallia's plain,
Full on their breasts exulting wore it!

And France drew back—she knew of yore
Old Caledonia's badge so glorious;

* The Marquis of Huntly raised the 92d chiefly on his own estates. His Lordship was afterwards appointed Colonel of the 42d, whose distinguishing badge is a scarlet feather.

And Belgium's soil grew red with gore,
The day brave Cameron† fell victorious!

Once more come home from foreign shores,
Their hearts with love of country burning,
For these spreads Scotia all her stores,
Now to their Highland hills returning!

And well you mark in every face,
The joy that native home inspires,
When warm the kindred, lov'd embrace,
With rapture every bosom fires!

Loud shouts again the welkin ring,
Again the pipes in gayest measure
Play sweetly; while the Highland fling
And reel make each heart dance with pleasure.

Oh Caledonia! raise thy voice!
Raise high thy strains, no foe dares meet
Bid all thy echoing hills rejoice, [thee,
Thy bravest sons are come to greet thee!

From war, from battles deadly strife,
Where ghastly Gaul half fears to fight them,
To cheer their wounds, to inspire new life,
Home their own native hills invite them.

And when thy fostering hand hath heal'd,
These sons who feel so proud to own thee,
Again they'd rush to honour's field,
And fresh green laurels earn to crown thee.

In consequence of hard times in England a BARBER has shut up his shop, and accepted of an offer made him to turn author. The following is his first epistle.—*Bost. Ev. Post.*

BULLOCK-SMITHY, June 19.

Your letter, which came safe to hand, my good friend,
Proves the proverb, 'When times are at worst, they must mend.'
'Tis a pity, as you say, a man of my reading
Should be doom'd to the drudgery of shaving and bleeding:
And yet, when I first nam'd the matter to *Moggy*,
She exclaim'd with surprise, 'sure, my dear, you are groggy;
'Or, if you're not tipsy, you're certainly raving:
'Think no more of such follies, but stick to your shaving.'
But scarce had she finished the whole of your letter,
When she vow'd with a smile, that she lik'd the scheme better.
The sal'ry you nam'd she seem'd mightily pleas'd at,
Ten shillings a week is not now to be 'sneez'd at.'
Whilst thousands around us, both weavers and spinners,

† The author's earliest friend and commanding officer—admired as a man, loved as a friend, and copied as a soldier. He fell at Waterloo, at the head of his gallant 92d, whom he had never led but to victory. His regiment well revenged his fall on that memorable day.

Though they toil night and day, often go with-
out dinners,
And trade's falling off so in *my* line, I see
If I don't quit it shortly, 'twill shortly quit
me;
So high are the taxes, and wages so low now,
That half my old customers let their beards
grow now:
Then as for tooth-drawing, I need not tell *you*
Teeth don't wear out fast, when they've no-
thing to chew.
So as dear Mrs. Gossip approves of your pro-
fer,
Without further parley I close with your offer;
And quitting my puffing and shaving for
rhymes,
Shall now try my hand at a touch at the times.
Nor so great the transition as some may }
suppose,
I shall still shave and cut, not my friends, }
but my foes,
Still happy the Tories to take by the nose; }
And as for their rivals, that party of prigs,
Sometimes, for amusement, I'll tickle their
'Whigs.'
Then adieu my old wig-blocks, farewell to my
strop;
Dickey Gossip turns author, and shuts up his
shop.

SUNSET.

Soft o'er the mountain's purple brow,
Meek twilight draws her shadowy grey;
From tufted woods, and vallies low,
Light's magic colours steal away.

Yet still, amid the spreading gloom,
Resplendent glow the western waves,
That roll o'er Nature's coral caves,
A zone of light on evening's dome.

On this lone summit let me rest,
And view the forms to fancy dear,
Till on the ocean's darken'd breast,
The stars of evening tremble clear;
Or the moon's pale orb appear,
Throwing her line of radiance wide,
Far o'er the lightly curling tide.

No sounds o'er silence now prevail,
Save of the murmur'ing brook below,
Or sailor's song borne on the gale,
Or oar at distance striking slow.

So sweet, so tranquil, may my evening ray
Set to this world—and rise in future day.

[*Del. Watchman.*]

Political Economy.

BALANCE OF TRADE.

Having no regular access to the Village Record, may form some apology for not more recently giving publicity to the following impressions. Amusing myself this morning with a file belonging to a friend, I was much pleased with a recommendation from a cor-

respondent, to use rye as a substitute for coffee, but was sorry to find it coupled with observations calculated to make some very erroneous impressions. This writer appears to have mistaken the cause of our present difficulties, in attributing them wholly to the excess of our imports. This cause I considered inadequate to have produced the present complicated mass of evils that now surround us.

These enormous imports are either paid for, or they are not; if the former, and we have exchanged what we did not want for what we did, whether it be money or other commodities, we are gainers by the transaction: if the latter, we must have a considerable amount of capital on loan, and if we make a judicious use thereof, it may be the means of increasing our wealth—for I presume that even your correspondent K, would not consider that a loan of twenty or thirty thousand dollars would increase his pecuniary embarrassments, if he feel any, or diminish his wealth if it were judiciously employed. It is true that if a man contract a debt in a foreign country, which he is not well able to discharge, he is brought into difficulty; but the same thing happens if the debt be contracted with his nearest neighbour. We should therefore look at our domestic as well as our foreign transactions, if we would find the cause of the present "hard times." It is well known that a spirit of speculation has, for some years past, pervaded the land, and extended itself to every class of the community. Thousands launch into extensive business upon a borrowed capital, and presenting the appearance of wealth, and having much money at their command, they naturally get into a style of living nearly as expensive as if the property they held were actually their own. Trusting to some fortunate turn of trade, or lucky speculation, they begin to encroach on their capital. Anxious to repair the breach they extend their business—difficulties arise—money must be borrowed to meet their contracts—none offering at legal interest, notes must be shaved at two or two and an half per cent. per month. In the mean time the expenses of their families increase, and these, together with discounts, shaving money, losses incident to their trade, &c. &c. gradually eat up the capital they have borrowed, and at last a failure of somebody like themselves, or a refusal of some bank to renew a note, or some such circumstance, forces them to stop and give their creditors the remains of their property. These things have become so common that they are scarcely esteemed disreputable; and while a poor man who steals to the value of five dollars is esteemed a villain, a gentleman who borrows five hundred thousand, and voluntarily puts it out of his power to repay it, is merely considered unfortunate.

Here then is the true cause of hard times, and nothing will relieve us but a change in our habits. Let all live within the bounds of their circumstances, and keep to moderation

in their trade or business, and our difficulties will soon vanish. This change, it is hoped, will in some measure be brought about. A salutary purgation is now going on—credit is shaken to its foundation—those who are not rich, and who will not live economically, will soon have nothing to spend—many families of high standing will be reduced to poverty, and much individual distress will ensue. But this is unavoidable; it is the necessary consequence of the high state of factitious prosperity, in which the younger part of the community have been educated.

There is another part of the aforesaid communication which conveys an erroneous idea—I allude to the following passage, viz.

“There are other articles in common use that might quite as readily be dispensed with; I mean tobacco and ardent spirits. These being mostly the products of our own soil do not impoverish the country; their effects cease with the consumer and his own family who are generally landed in wretchedness, while some retailer of the poisonous draught is growing rich on the spoil. Thus while one neighbour drinks his estate, another gets it,” &c.

This brings to my recollection an old story about two tavern keepers, and as it strikingly illustrates the subject, I will repeat it: B and C, who lived contiguous, determined simultaneously to commence keeping tavern. Accordingly, each scraped together as much as would purchase a barrel of whiskey and some glasses, which was all the stock that was thought necessary in the neighbourhood where they lived. Soon after they had opened house, B having nothing to do, and having eighteen pence left after laying in his stock, concluded to visit his neighbour, and being willing to encourage the business in which he was engaged, he spends the eighteen pence before he returned. C, grateful for the kindness of his friend, returns the visit and spends the eighteen pence with B, who again spends it with C; and thus visits were reciprocated, and the eighteen pence passed from hand to hand till both barrels of whiskey were exhausted. Now, if it were true that what one man spends another gets, neither of these could be any poorer by this transaction—but in spite of all the powers of reasoning both barrels of whiskey were gone, and neither of our landlords had wherewithal to replace them. Now let us suppose that instead of two there were five thousand—or five millions of persons similarly situated, they might all grow poor by the same means. Hence it is the balance of produce and consumption, and not the balance of trade, which determines the increase or diminution of a nation's wealth.

SOCRATES.

Village Record.]

Free Trade.—Since the publication of Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations*, there has been a gradually increasing attention

to the great subject of Political Economy, and it has happily resulted in the cure, or partial cure, of several inveterate errors of pernicious consequence. This is seen, in one particular, in lord Castlereagh's late declaration, in the British House of Commons, to wit, that “the true interest of every country was to throw wide open its ports to the unrestrained commerce of other countries.” Had that sentiment, now greeted with general applause, been advanced by a British minister half a century back, there is no doubt but he would have lost his place for it; the great body of the nation would have regarded him as either a madman, or an enemy to the public weal. Yet nothing is more clear than its truth, nor could scarcely any earthly thing be more beneficial to the civilized world, than to give it practical effect universally. It would prevent, or greatly diminish, the number of wars, of which the most have been, in modern times, about trade; that is, if we except only the late tremendous wars that grew out of the revolution in France. Again, it would give encouragement to every nation for the exertion of its industry and skill. And, finally, as it would impoverish none, but rather add to the wealth of all, the nations most industrious and skilful, would be enriched by it in proportion to the increased ability of their customers.

[*Con. Courant.*]

MARRIED.

At Holmesburg, on the 16th inst. by the Rev. I. P. Slack, Mr. George W. Holmes, to Miss Susan, daughter of William Maghee, esq.

At Burlington, (N. J.) on the 15th inst. by the Rev. Dr. Carr, Joseph Ellis Bloomfield, esq. to Miss Mary Frances Barbarroux, daughter of John A. Barbarroux, esq.

DIED.

On the 18th inst. at Portsmouth, (N. H.) Hon. John Langdon, formerly a senator in Congress, and lately governor of New Hampshire.

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